

SECURE RURAL SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITY SELF-DETERMINATION ACT OF 2000
PUBLIC LAW 110-343
TITLE II PROJECT SUBMISSION FORM
USDA FOREST SERVICE

Name of Resource Advisory Committee:
Project Number (Assigned by Designated Federal Official):
Funding Fiscal Year(s): 2014

2. Project Name: Big Quilcene Habitat Enhancement & Youth Engagement	3a. State: WA 3b. County(s): Jefferson
4. Project Submitted By: Kurt Aluzas	5. Date: 03/27/2014
6. Contact Phone Number: 360-765-2230	7. Contact E-mail: kaaluzas@fs.fed.us

8. Project Location: Big Quilcene River Watershed	
a. National Forest(s): Olympic National Forest	b. Forest Service District: Hood Canal Ranger District
c. Location (Township-Range-Section) T27N R03W Sections 1, 2, 12 & 13	

9. Project Goals and Objectives: 1 – To create legacy components for important wildlife species and to improve future late-successional habitat on a portion of the landscape 2 – To foster a greater understanding of wildlife habitat structure, ecological function, and forest stewardship among youth

10. Project Description: a. Brief: (<i>in one sentence</i>): This project will use wildlife nest boxes and snags created by youths to improve wildlife habitat structure and function. b. Detailed: Historical forest management in the Big Quilcene Watershed, accompanied by heavy stocking of single tree species, has led to dense, biologically homogeneous, mid-successional stage stands of trees, with few snags or large woody debris and little in the way of understory shrubs and herbaceous vegetation. Many species of wildlife depend upon these snags and down logs as shelter or for refuge for their prey. This includes a wide variety of birds, mammals, mollusks, and amphibians. Late-successional wildlife species such as the northern spotted owl (Threatened) and fisher (a re-introduced Sensitive Species) have lost nesting, roosting, denning, and foraging habitat, and are affected by decreased prey availability. The northern flying squirrel is the primary prey for northern spotted owls on the Olympic Peninsula. It also has an important role in spreading the spores of fungi that are beneficial to many of our forest tree species. Snags, coarse woody debris and other biological legacies are important determinants of flying squirrel abundance. Artificial nest boxes can serve as an important substitute for natural cavities until they develop on the landscape. In addition to restoration thinning, techniques for creating snags and coarse wood have also been used successfully on the Olympic National Forest. Monitoring has shown that these created features are used by wildlife. An Olympic National Forest wildlife biologist visited the West Sound Technical Skills Center (WST)

in March 2014. He introduced students to the ecological need for these biological features, the importance of forest management techniques such as thinning, snags and coarse wood creation, and nest boxes, along with potential jobs in the related industries. They also learned about the ecological role of the flying squirrel in spreading beneficial fungi as well as being an important prey species. The students in the Construction Trades Program will construct flying squirrel nest boxes as part of their course requirements and to acquire skills with stationary power equipment. The cedar boards for the boxes were donated by a local lumber company. A minimum of 40 flying squirrel nest boxes will be constructed. Once completed, a contractor will install the nest boxes as well as carry out a limited amount of tree-topping (>20), to create future snags and cavities. The tops of the trees will provide coarse woody debris. If bid prices are lower than projections, then additional tree-topping or nest box installation could be accomplished. These two contract elements would be bundled along with similar work in other parts of the watershed to maximize efficiency and reduce overall costs.

In August 2014, students from YMCA groups in Jefferson County will receive the same educational presentation. They will travel to these areas to girdle trees to create 40 or more snags, using a safe and effective technique. The two different types of snag creation, along with the nest boxes and debris from topping, will add biological values and diversity in these stands, without precluding future thinning potential. Snags will be created greater than 200 feet from open or drivable roads or trails to reduce potential for removal by firewood cutting, and to mitigate safety concerns. These activities will occur in 30-50 year old second growth stands within the home range of spotted owl activity centers. A separate proposal to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to provide crews from the Northwest Youth Corps, if funded, would add to the amount of this type of work that could be achieved, and would be consistent with the youth component of this project. Safety and learning is an emphasis throughout this project. A field trip with each group to view nest box installation and see the results of other snag creation techniques is also being arranged.

11. Types of Lands Involved?

State/Private/Other lands involved? ☐ Yes ☒ No

Land Status:

If Yes, specify:

12. How does the proposed project meet purposes of the Legislation? (Check at least 1)

☐ Improves maintenance of existing infrastructure.

☐ Implements stewardship objectives that enhance forest ecosystems.

☒ Restores and improves land health.

☐ Restores water quality

13. Project Type

a. Check all that apply: (check at least 1)

☐ Road Maintenance

☐ Trail Maintenance

☐ Road Decommission/Obliteration

☐ Trail Obliteration

☐ Other Infrastructure Maintenance (specify):

☐ Soil Productivity Improvement

☐ Forest Health Improvement

<input type="checkbox"/> Watershed Restoration & Maintenance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Wildlife Habitat Restoration
<input type="checkbox"/> Fish Habitat Restoration	<input type="checkbox"/> Control of Noxious Weeds
<input type="checkbox"/> Reestablish Native Species	<input type="checkbox"/> Fuels Management/Fire Prevention
<input type="checkbox"/> Implement CWPP Project	<input type="checkbox"/> Other Project Type (specify):
b. Primary Purpose (select only 1): Wildlife Habitat Restoration	

14. Identify What the Project Will Accomplish
Miles of road maintained:
Miles of road decommissioned/obliterated:
Number of structures maintained/improved:
Acres of soil productivity improved:
Miles of stream/river restored/improved:
Miles of fish habitat restored/improved:
Acres of native species reestablished:
Miles of trail maintained:
Miles of trial obliterated:
Acres of forest health improved (including fuels reduction):
Acres of rangeland improved:
Acres of wildlife habitat restored/improved: 200
Acres of noxious weeds controlled:
Timber volume generated:
Jobs generated in full time equivalents (FTE) to nearest tenth. One FTE is 52 forty hour weeks: 0.1
People reached (for environmental education projects/fire prevention): 30 youth
Direct economic activity benefit:
Other:

15. Estimated Project Start Date: March 2014	16. Estimated Project Completion Date: December 31, 2014
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17. List known partnerships or collaborative opportunities.

This project represents a new and exciting collaboration between the Olympic National Forest and the West Sound Technical Skills Center (WST) in Bremerton, WA. WST is an educational cooperative of nine school districts on the Kitsap Peninsula, Olympic Peninsula, and Bainbridge Island. The Skills Center provides an opportunity for students in grades 11 or 12 to receive job training and a jump-start on a post-secondary education. Students learn the technical knowledge and skills to either gain them advanced placement in apprenticeships, technical schools, two and four year colleges and universities,

or go directly to entry-level employment in a vocation. This project will also involve youth from local YMCA groups.

18. Identify benefits to communities.

Contracting the nest box installation and tree-topping provides an opportunity for local contractors with tree-climbing and chainsaw skills. The funding would create work for the selected contractor and 1 or more laborers. Indirect benefits to communities would include expenditures made in the local area by the contractor and crew on fuel, food, and miscellaneous items during the life of the contract.

19. How does the project benefit federal lands/resources?

The nest boxes and snags will provide direct benefits to the primary prey of the Northern spotted owl. Other wildlife species would also use the snags or incidental woody debris. The use of different snag creation techniques will ensure that cavities and other snag attributes are available to species over a longer period of time. These activities complement the habitat enhancement benefits of pre-commercial thinning activities that have recently occurred in the watershed.

20. What is the Proposed Method(s) of Accomplishment? (check at least 1)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Contract	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Federal Workforce
<input type="checkbox"/> County Workforce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Volunteers
<input type="checkbox"/> Grant	<input type="checkbox"/> Agreement
<input type="checkbox"/> Americorps	<input type="checkbox"/> YCC/CCC Crews
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Corps	<input type="checkbox"/> Stewardship Contract
<input type="checkbox"/> Merchantable Timber Pilot	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (specify): West Sound Tech Students, YMCA students

21. Will the Project Generate Merchantable Materials? ☐ Yes ☒ No

22. Anticipated Project Costs

a. Title II Funds Requested: **\$5030**

b. Is this a multi-year funding request? ☐ Yes ☒ No

23. Identify Source(s) of Other Funding:

All NEPA has been completed for this project using appropriated funds. Appropriated funds would also cover the cost of the Youth Engagement Coordinator, and transport of the students to the field site to view the box installation, as well as cover other oversight functions. West Sound Technical Skills center has made a significant in-kind contribution by allowing the students and staff for this project to construct these boxes, in addition to the necessary equipment. The YMCA is likewise making a similar in-kind contribution for participants involved with snag creation. Kingston Lumber donated the cedar boards used for construction of these boxes by the students.

24. Monitoring Plan (provide as attachment)

- a. Provide a plan that describes your process for tracking and explaining the effects of this project on your environmental and community goals outlined above.

See Attached

- b. Identify who will conduct the monitoring:

Olympic National Forest personnel and volunteers

- c. Identify total funding needed to carry out specified monitoring tasks (Worksheet 1, Item k):

No Title II funds will be used for monitoring efforts

25. Identify remedies for failure to comply with the terms of the agreement.

If project cannot be completed under the terms of this agreement:

- ☒ Unused funds will be returned to the RAC account.
☐ Other, please explain:

Project Recommended By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Chairperson

Resource Advisory Committee

Project Approved By:

/s/ (INSERT Signature)

Forest Supervisor

National Forest

Project Cost Analysis Worksheet

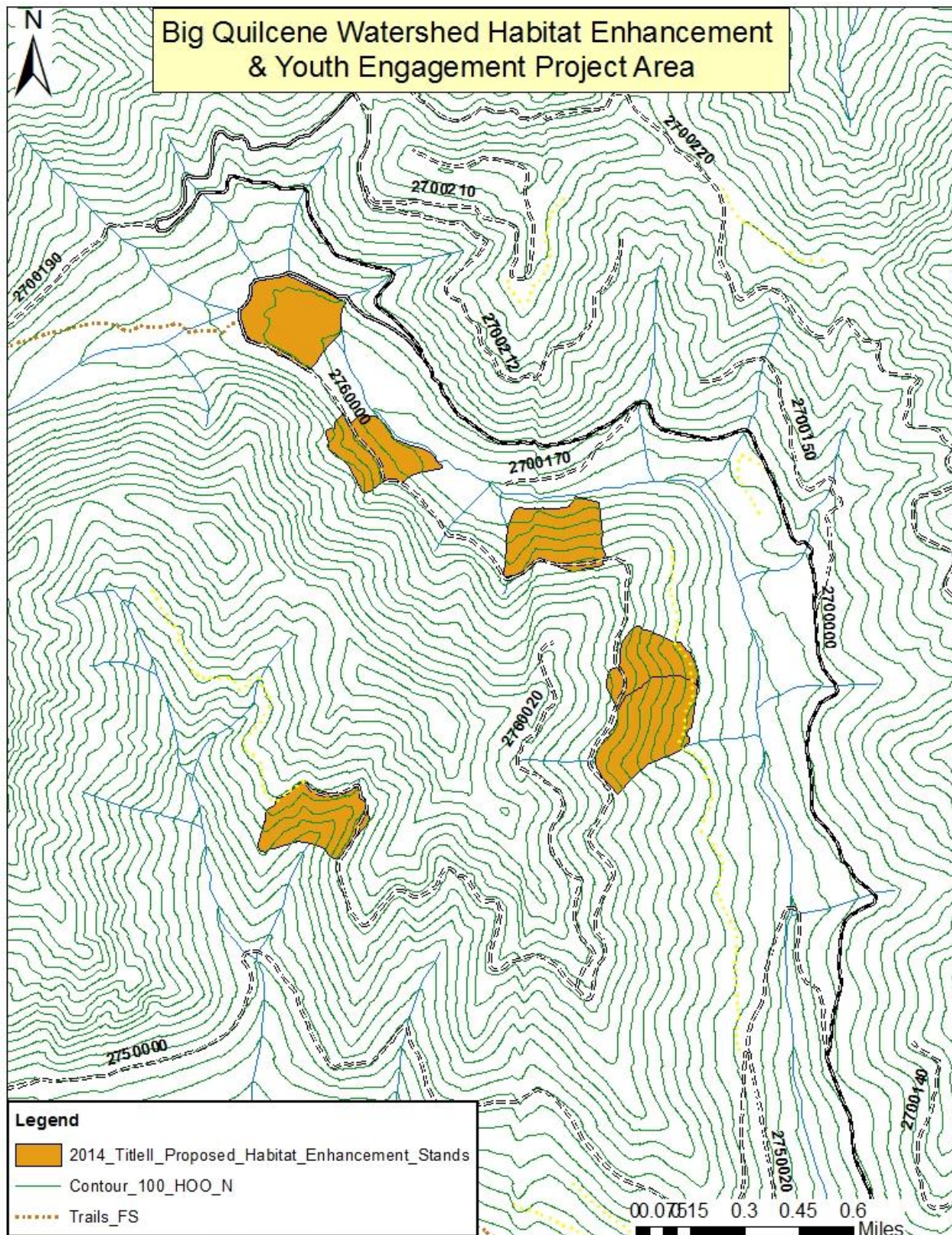
Worksheet 1

Please submit this worksheet with your proposal

Item	Column A Fed. Agency Appropriated Contribution	Column B Requested Title II Contribution	Column C Other Contributions	Column D Total Available Funds
a. Field Work & Site Surveys	\$720			\$720
b. NEPA/CEQA	\$360			\$360
c. ESA Consultation	\$360			\$360
d. Permit Acquisition				
e. Project Design & Engineering				
f. Contract/Grant Preparation	\$360	\$360		\$720
g. Contract/Grant Administration	\$720	\$360		\$1080
h. Contract/Grant Cost	\$1100	\$3500	\$8934	\$13534
i. Salaries	\$2000	\$560		\$2560
j. Materials & Supplies	\$500	\$250	\$400	\$1150
k. Monitoring	\$1100			\$1100
l. Other				
m. Project Sub-Total				
n. Indirect Costs				
o. Total Cost Estimate	\$7220	\$5030	\$9334	\$21584

NOTES:

- a. Pre-NEPA Costs
- g. Includes Contracting/Grant Officer Representative (COR) costs. Excludes Contracting/Grant Officer costs.
- i. Cost of implementing project
- l. Examples include overhead charges from other partners, vehicles, equipment rentals, travel, etc.
- n. Contracting/Grant Officer costs, if needed, are included as part of Indirect Costs.



ATTACHMENT 1 – Big Quilcene Habitat Enhancement Monitoring Plan

1. Data recorded for nest boxes, topped and girdled trees will include GPS locations so that they can be monitored over time for wildlife use and vegetative response. The Olympic National Forest has an established monitoring system and extensive data base for snag monitoring.
2. Self-activated wildlife cameras will be placed in these areas to evaluate wildlife use before and after habitat treatment. This will include monitoring of the flying squirrel nest boxes. Any photographs of flying squirrel use of the nest boxes will be supplied to WST Construction trades program to show the fruits of their endeavors. WST students will write their names on the box they construct so we can report back to them over time.